

REMARKS

This amendment is intended as a full and complete response to the non-final Office Action mailed June 30, 2004. In the Office Action, the Examiner notes that claims 1 and 4-8 are pending, of which claim 1 is rejected and claims 4-8 are objected to. By this amendment claims 1 and 4-8 are cancelled and new claims 9-13 are added.

In view of both the amendments presented above and the following discussion, Applicants submit that none of the claims now pending in the application are anticipated under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §102 or obvious under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §103. Thus, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in allowable form.

It is to be understood that the Applicants, by amending the claims, do not acquiesce to the Examiner's characterizations of the art of record or to applicants' subject matter recited in the pending claims. Further, Applicants are not acquiescing to the Examiner's statements as to the applicability of the art of record to the pending claims by filing the instant responsive amendments.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**Claim 1**

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Terasawa, U.S. Patent No. 6,415,437 ("Terasawa") in further view of Wasilewski (U.S. 5,420,866). Applicants have cancelled claim 1.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objected to claims 4-8 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim (claim 1). The Examiner concludes that those claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, the Applicants have submitted new claims 9-13 that are directed to the allowable subject matter of claims 4-8. In particular, claim 9

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relates to subject matter similar to that found in claims 1 and 4, while claims 10-13 relate to subject matter similar to that found in claims 1 and 5-8. In view of the newly added claims, the Applicants have cancelled claims 1 and 4-8.

Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that the new claims to claims 9-13 be allowed.


CONCLUSION

Thus, the Applicants submit that none of the claims presently in the application, is anticipated or obvious under the respective provisions of 35 U.S.C. §102 or §103. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring adverse final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Eamon J. Wall, Esq. or John M. Kelly at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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